

## Vita of Dr. Scott J. Larson

### Education

D.Min. (1997) Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts

M. Div. (1988) Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts

B.A. (1981) South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota

### Professional Experience

Present: Founder and President, Straight Ahead Ministries, based in Worcester, Massachusetts, operating in more than 400 juvenile facilities in fifteen states, and providing many different aftercare models through a staff of 58 and several hundred volunteers.

Present: Member of Advisory Group for Council on Accreditation, New York, NY

Present: Technical Assistance Training Consultant for Office for Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP).

Present: Speaker and trainer for teachers, social workers, parents, youth and youth workers

Present: Adjunct professor and founder of Juvenile Justice Ministries Master's of Arts program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME) in Boston, MA.

Present: Adjunct professor and founder of Juvenile Justice Undergraduate degree program at Gordon College, Wenham, MA

Formerly: Chairman of Board of Directors, Reclaiming Youth International, Lennox, SD

### Research and Publications

Author or co-author of numerous articles and thirteen books including:

*Groundwork*, (2014, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO)

*The Resilience Revolution*, (2006, Solution Tree, Bloomington, IN)

*Reclaiming our Prodigal Sons and Daughters* (2000, Solution Tree, Bloomington, IN)

*Help! My Child's been Arrested: A Parent's Guide to Navigating the Juvenile Justice System*, (2008, EMIS, Wheaton, IL)

*A Place for Skeptics*, (2005, Regal Publishing, Ventura, CA)

*City Lights: Essentials for Reaching Today's Urban Teenager*, (2003, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO)

*When Teens Stray: Parenting for the Long Haul*, (2002, Servant Publications, Ann Arbor, MI)

*Risk in Our Midst: Empowering Teens to Love the Unlovable*, (2000, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO)

*At Risk: Bringing Hope to Hurting Teenagers*, (1999, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO)

*A Fresh Start*, (2003, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO)

*A Way Out*, (1998, Straight Ahead Ministries, Westborough, MA)

*Doing Time with God: Daily Reflections from Kids in Lock-up*, (2003, Straight Ahead Ministries, Westborough, MA)

*Quick Connect*, a CD-ROM assessment tool to determine where a young person is both developmentally and spiritually, (2000, Group Publishing, Loveland, CO)

### Recent Training Events

Keynote address at Celebrating Exceptional Children Conference, Winnipeg, Canada

Keynote address at BECCA Annual Conference for judges, prosecuting attorneys and probation departments in King County, WA

National Guard Challenge specific trainings designed for: Program Directors, Program Evaluators, Counselors, Teachers, Post-Residential Coordinators, and Cadre.

Oklahoma Commission on Children & Youth Annual Conference, Oklahoma City, OK

Illinois State Board of Education Safe Schools Conference, Chicago, IL

Staff Training for 260 staff at Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana, IL

University of Cincinnati / Ohio Resource Network, training for member organizations serving at-risk youth, Cincinnati, OH  
Ray of Hope training of 210 child care worker staff in Kitchner, ON  
City of Quesnel BC, Canada training for mayor's office, school department, probation and police department  
National Association of Street Schools Annual Conference, Keynote and 3-day intensive training, Denver, CO  
Staff training and Leadership Team training for Cal Farley's Boys & Girls Ranch, Amarillo, TX  
American Prison Chaplain Training Institute, Taylor, IN  
Christian Haven staff training of 160 staff and fund raising banquet, Wheatfield, IN  
National Association for Chaplains for At-Risk Youth, keynotes and workshops  
United Methodist Children's Home Staff training for 260 staff, Waco, TX  
Keynote and workshop at Youth Subcultures and Gang conference, Madison, WI  
Keynote and workshop at City of Canton, OH Community Assets Conference, Canton, OH

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING MODULES**

### *Positive Youth Development Training for Working with Today's High Risk Youth*

Much of today's debate on reaching high-risk youth vacillates between punishing behavior and treating disorders, both of which are deficit models. This address looks at a strength-based approach for today's most difficult youth, which focuses upon: the strength of the adult-child bond, the strength of the individual youth, and the strength of the community.

### *Working with Gang Members*

There are currently more than 1.6 million active gang members in the United States. The numbers have risen 40% since 2009 making it a serious threat in most communities. This workshop addresses the underlying contributing factors to gang numbers increasing as well as preventative and intervention strategies for reducing those numbers.

### *Strength-Based Discipline with Youth*

How does one build on the strengths of youth while still addressing destructive behavior patterns? This seminar presents several best practice methods for turning problems into opportunities for transformational growth from Scott Larson's book "The Resilience Revolution."

### *Resolving Conflict in Ways that Transform*

We avoid conflict, because in the vast majority of cases, relationships are further damaged as a result. In fact, only 15% of the time is the relationship strengthened as a result of the conflict. This seminar presents a model that gives more opportunities for that 15% of cases.

### *Impacting Youth Toward Transformation*

Transformation means "to become what one has never been." This workshop presents several transformational change principles for working with all types of youth based upon Scott Larson's 20+ years of experience and his book "The Resilience Revolution."

### *New Paradigms for Reaching At-Risk Youth*

Young people are worlds apart from the teens of two or three decades ago. Hence, many of our old approaches are also outdated and ineffective. For example, we used to think of troubled kids as being *alienated* from society. But many of today's youth are better described by the term *anemic*, defined as "a social instability resulting from an absence of standards and values or a sense of dislocation." Many of our most troubled youth have never been attached, thus the idea of rehabilitating them to their former state is irrelevant. This message looks at what we as educators, concerned citizens, and parents can do to intervene in the lives of today's troubled young people.

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

Dr. Scott Larson is president and founder of *Straight Ahead Ministries*, an international faith-based organization working with juvenile offenders in more than 400 juvenile detention centers in 15 states and five countries with a myriad of aftercare programs when youth return home. Straight Ahead also provides mentoring programs and aftercare homes for youth after release from lock-up. The Larsons opened and lived in one of these aftercare homes with up to seven boys for nine years. Scott was the chairman of the board of Reclaiming Youth International, a strength-based movement that provided training and best practice models to programs serving high-risk youth around the world. Scott has authored 13 books on working effectively with troubled youth and has been a speaker to youth, parents, teachers, social workers, and youth workers since 1983 and is an adjunct professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME), as well as professor and founder of Juvenile Justice Ministries at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. Scott and his wife Hanne reside in Northborough, Massachusetts.